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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3734th meeting of the Security Council, held on 29 January 1997 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Letters dated 20 and 23 December 1991, from France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (S/23306, S/23307, S/23308, S/23309 and S/23317)", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council notes with concern the letter of 17 January 1997 from the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the President of the Security Council, announcing that Libyan Arab Airways would resume international flights out of Libya immediately (S/1997/52). The Council considers the position expressed in the letter of 17 January 1997 to be incompatible with Security Council resolution 748 (1992). Resolution 748 (1992) does not prohibit overflights of Libyan territory. Paragraph 4 (a) of the resolution does, however, prohibit all international flights to and from Libya. The Security Council would consider any such flights to be a violation of the terms of resolution 748 (1992).

"The Security Council takes note of the reports that a Libyan-registered aircraft, in apparent violation of resolution 748 (1992), flew from Tripoli, Libya to Accra, Ghana, on 21 January 1997, where it landed and later departed. The Council has requested the Committee established pursuant to resolution 748 (1992) to follow up this matter. The Council draws the attention of Member States to their obligations under resolution 748 (1992) in the event that Libyan-registered aircraft seek to land in their territory."

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